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ABSTRACT

This guide presents the Future Farmers of America (FFA) 2000 Model of Innovation award winners' projects. Chapters demonstrated abilities to identify goals and objectives, create a workable plan of action, attain and evaluate results, and identify items learned and ways to improve. Chapter 1 discusses the FFA National Chapter Award program that recognizes chapters for their efforts in planning and meeting program of activities objectives in student, chapter, and community development divisions. Chapter 2 lists the 2000 National Chapter Award winners and Middle Grade winner. Chapters 3-5 describe the National Chapter Award Winner in one of the three divisions and presents summaries of activities of other chapters. Chapter 3, Student Development Division, includes these activities: leadership, healthy lifestyle, supervised agricultural experience, scholarship, and agricultural career skill. Chapter 4, Chapter Development Division, includes these activities: chapter recruitment, financial activities, public relations activities, leadership activities, and support group activities. Chapter 5, Community Development Division, includes these activities: economic, environmental, human resources, citizenship, and agricultural awareness. Chapter 6 describes the winning Middle Grade Chapter and explains how to develop a program of activities. Chapters 7-8 provide tips for membership recruitment and National Chapter Award success. (YLB)



Chapter 1 Innovators Guide



Models of Innovation Award Winners



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The Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Produced by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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Box 9300-MS19
Minneapolis, MN 55440-9300
13407 McGinnis Road West-MS19
Wayzata, MN 55391-2391
Tel: 952-742-2503
Fax: 952-742-7313
Alan Willis, Vice President
Cargill AgHorizons

Spring 2001

Dear Friends of FFA,

Congratulations to the FFA National Chapter Awards winners for 2000. These winners exemplify the outstanding efforts of FFA chapters around the country to develop programs that emphasize student, chapter and community development. These winning chapters illustrate FFA's passion for innovation and desire to turn ideas into actions.

Cargill and FFA have partnered together for 40 years bringing programs such as the National Chapter Awards to FFA members around the country. In fact, Cargill has contributed \$4 million to FFA since 1961. We continue this support because Cargill believes that FFA is dedicated to encouraging innovation and action that will help preparing leaders that are so vital for our future. The National Chapter Award winners illustrate this commitment.

We encourage every chapter to review the outstanding work illustrated in this book and apply for 2001 award. We would like to recognize your chapter's dedication to excellence as well. We look forward to seeing even more innovative and exciting work by FFA Chapters in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Alan D. Willis

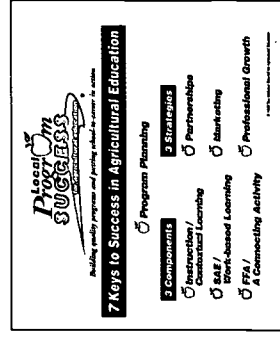
Alan Willis
Vice President, Cargill AgHorizons

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The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education.



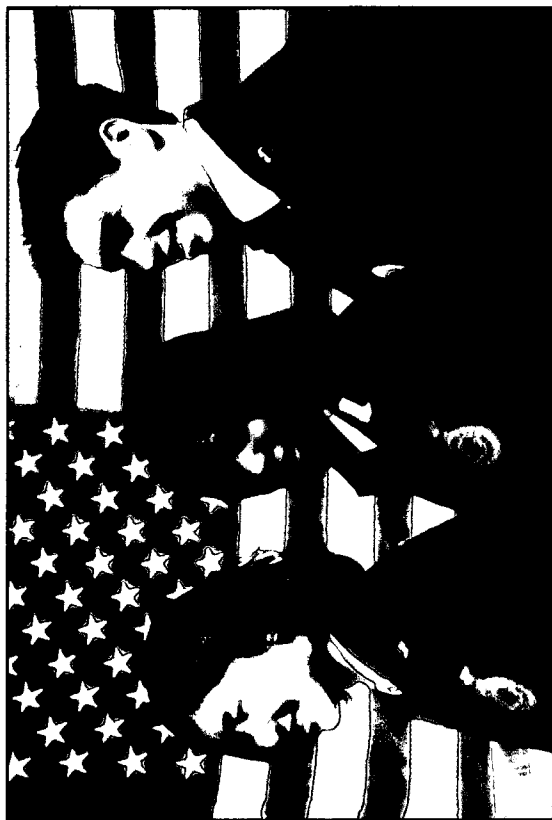
Models of Innovation

The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters for their efforts in planning and meeting the objectives they create in their Program of Activities (POA). The Program of Activities that an FFA chapter develops serves as their guide for events throughout the year. The POA and award program has three divisions—Student Development, Chapter Development and Community Development. The ten highest scoring chapters in each division receive the Model of Innovation Award at the national convention each year.

The 2000 Model of Innovation award winners' projects are presented in this guide. You will read about the variety of ways in which FFA chapters identify their needs, create and implement their plans and evaluate their results. The award judges were impressed with these chapters' abilities to identify goals and objectives, create a workable plan of action, attain and evaluate their results, and identify items learned and future ways to improve.

Use ideas from this guide to create new ideas for activities for your FFA chapter. When your new officer team is elected, sit down as a group and review the ideas found in this book and use it as a resource when you develop your POA. This book also contains insights from students and advisors, a summary of the award program, tips for National Chapter Award success and ideas for recruiting more members into your FFA chapter.

Strive to strengthen your students, chapter and community in innovative ways. Organize your chapter activities with a written Program of Activities, apply for recognition and reap the rewards of innovation in your school, community and beyond!



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Accomplished FFA chapters share one common trait—they understand that success is the result of planning and implementation. The FFA National Chapter Award program encourages chapters to develop and use a written Program of Activities (POA) and recognizes chapters' achievements through the following awards:

State Superior Chapter

Any chapter in good standing that completes at least one activity related to each of the National Chapter Award program's 15 quality standards (see box) may apply for this award. State Superior Chapters receive a recognition certificate.

State Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards

Chapters that qualify for the State Superior Chapter award may supply additional information about three activities in each division. State judges score these activities to determine State Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Winning chapters receive a multi-year plaque. As awards are earned in subsequent years, they receive plaque inserts specifying the level achieved.

Three-Star, Two Star and One-Star Gold Awards

Chapters receiving the State Gold award may compete for national awards. (The number of applications a state may submit is restricted to no more than 10 percent of its total number of chapters.) National award judges score the applications. Each chapter receives a multi-year plaque with an engraved plate that indicates its achievement of the Three-Star, Two-Star or One-Star award. The "star" designation signifies overall achievement in the National Chapter Award program.

Models of Innovation Awards

The Model of Innovation awards are presented to the 10 top-scoring final Three-Star chapters in each division. These chapters each receive a special recognition plaque at the national FFA convention. Special recognition is also given at the national FFA convention to the top-rated middle grade FFA chapter.

For complete details on the FFA National Chapter Award program, consult *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. It is available for \$5 from the National FFA Organization and can be found on the summer mailing CD-Rom. For a hard copy, call 1-888-332-2668 and request Item # NCAH.

Chapter Quality Standards

The FFA National Chapter Award program recognizes chapters' development and uses of a written Program of Activities that addresses the quality standards in the three divisions. The divisions and their standards follow. For more information on each standard, refer to the corresponding sections of this book.

Division I Student Development	Division II Chapter Development	Division III Community Development
Personal and group activities that improve life skills and address quality standards in:	Activities that encourage students to work together and address quality standards in:	Cooperative activities with other groups that make the community a better place to live and work, and address quality standards in:
★ Leadership	★ Chapter recruitment	★ Economic
★ Healthy lifestyles	★ Financial	★ Environmental
★ Supervised agricultural experience (SAE)	★ Public relations	★ Human resources
★ Scholarship	★ Leadership	★ Citizenship
★ Agricultural career skills	★ Support groups	★ Agricultural awareness



Student Development Division

National Winner

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Model of Innovation Finalists

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, Illinois

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

Olney FFA Chapter, Illinois

Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Chapter Development Division

National Winner

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Model of Innovation Finalists

Norco FFA Chapter, California

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

Park FFA Chapter, Montana

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Community Development Division

National Winner

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Model of Innovation Finalists

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, Illinois

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

Outstanding Middle Grade Chapter

Jeff Davis FFA Chapter, Georgia

The 2000 awards are based on activities completed during a 12-month period between January 1999 and June 2000 (deadlines vary by state).



The Winner for Year 2000 is Ravenna FFA Chapter, Ravenna, NE



Student Development Quality Standards

Leadership activities help the individual develop technical, human relations and decision-making skills to enhance personal success.

Healthy lifestyle activities promote the well being and self-esteem of students, either mentally or physically.

Supervised agricultural experience activities promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.

Scholarship activities develop a positive attitude toward lifelong learning experiences.

Agricultural career skill activities develop agricultural occupation and career skills through a progressive learning environment.

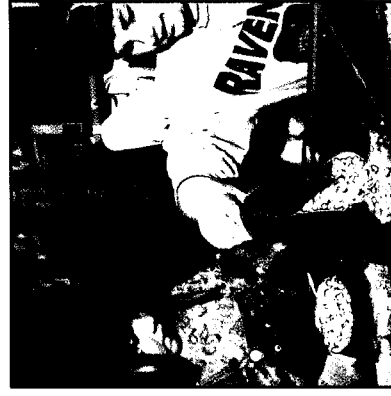
"Aim to accomplish
something that's
out of your grasp,
shoot for the moon!"

Jason Deines

2000-2001

Ravenna FFA Chapter

Newsreporter

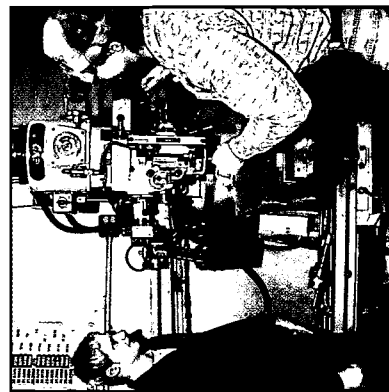


National Chapter Award Winner

After 29 years serving as the Ravenna FFA advisor, you might think Kent Zeller has trouble developing a Program of Activities. Not so, he says, "once you get the ball rolling, students can see what they get to do and where they get to go. They want action, they raise their hands, volunteer, do things and step out of the classroom." Zeller sees himself as a provider of opportunities for his students and keeps his chapter's POA totally student-oriented.

As a means of promoting leadership activities, the Ravenna FFA Chapter has developed a policy to finance 50% of the registration fee at leadership activities. This enabled members to participate in numerous activities including MFE, Junior High Quiz Bowl and the national FFA convention. This is where sophomore Gena Vacek said, "meeting new people from all over our nation and having a chance to talk to them and learn why they joined FFA was exciting."

Ravenna FFA had a two-fold healthy lifestyle activity that included a Teens Take on Tobacco Rally and co-hosting the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids day with Ravenna Cargill. The chapter's Teens Take on Tobacco involvement began four years ago and this year included a march and rally with Governor Johanns. FFA members were well educated on tobacco legislation when they met with their representatives at the state capital of Lincoln and while participating in other tobacco-related activities throughout the year.

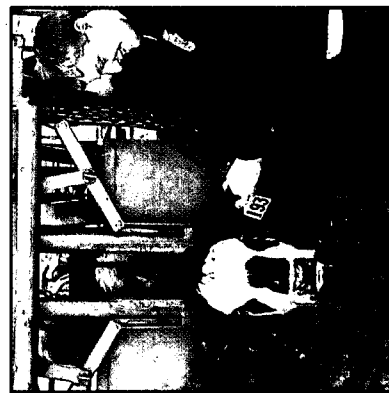


Ravenna FFA along with Cargill co-hosted the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids day and utilized suggestions from the prior year to make this event an even greater success. FFA members helped set up booths on everything from large machinery to an EMT jaws of life demonstration. Participants included over 350 K-6 students along with 22 faculty.

Ravenna FFA members traveled to Lincoln to get involved in the "learning" and "doing" process by attending seminars on legislation. Students attended "mock" hearings to learn about legislative procedures and also met with district representative, Jim Cudaback.

Members toured 14 area businesses. The tours helped them explore career opportunities. They connected to the Internet for their career and résumé development as well as curriculum information.

Ravenna FFA Chapter set a goal of a "total quality" FFA program in order to qualify for the \$1,000 award from Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. They won and used the money to purchase a computer and printer that the entire chapter uses in class.



Team FFA

The overall goal of this activity was to develop leadership skills in members. One hundred percent of the chapter members developed a personal plan of action that included goal setting and tracking their leadership development. The chapter sent 14 students to the state and national officer tour, five members to MFE and 25 members to the state convention. Team FFA encouraged members to participate in CDEs that could enhance their leadership skills. Twenty-five members advanced to state level competition.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Project "TEAM"

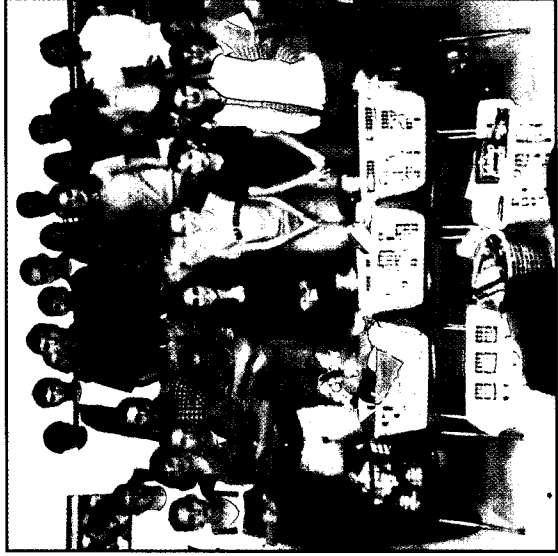
This chapter emphasizes leadership for all and set a goal of involving everyone in their leadership workshops, camps and seminars. TEAM stands for teaching excellence attitude and motivation. Improving these areas was the focus at the program in which ninety-seven members participated. Members also attended Washington Leadership Conference (WLC), state leadership workshops and area leadership training.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri



Leadership Abounds

This chapter had a goal of involving 40% of its members in competition above the chapter level. Twenty-nine students participated at the district or higher level (38%). Three teams went on to regional competition and one to the state level. Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan



More Leadership Ideas

Greenhouse

Together FFA members and community volunteers built the greenhouse. By doing it themselves, they cut cost and provided an opportunity for cooperative work and job skill development. Working side by side, community volunteers proved to be lots of fun and provided a great learning experience for students.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

Mentoring

Thirty-three FFA members were paired with 19 elementary school students in the PALS mentoring program to provide the younger generation with a chance to become even happier and better adjusted to everyday life. With weekly visits from the FFA members (two for each mentee) and three group activities annually, grades and attitudes for all involved improved. The mentors learned about putting others' needs before their own.

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

The promise of basic leadership training is that more students receive leadership experiences through local activities than could do so by attending other events. Of the thirty members chosen, their participation increased in both the area of career development events and chapter decision making. The goal of bringing critical leadership training to the local level was achieved successfully.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

Convention-Here We Come

This chapter had 71% of their members attend one state, local or national convention. Members were involved in workshops, served as ushers or delegates, and ran for office and one member even served as an "Agricuture Ambassador" at the 1999 National FFA Convention.

Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

These activities

help the individual

develop

technical,

human relations

& decision-making skills

to enhance

personal success.



To give everyone a chance to gain additional leadership skills, all members are encouraged to attend the state convention. The event also serves as a reward to members for their accomplishments throughout the year and a chance to travel and meet new members.

Park FFA Chapter, Montana

To develop their teamwork, human relations skills and decision-making powers, members participated in this day of workshops that was presented by the state officers. Advance information was provided to the officers so they were able to target the members' specific needs.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

Nine teams of eight members each gathered the needed supplies for each of their baskets. Students volunteered to take the money donated, purchase the turkeys and then load and deliver the completed baskets to social services. Everyone had a chance to work together cooperatively and enhance their personal success by helping others.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

The elementary administration approached this chapter with a chance to integrate agricultural science curriculum to 215 4th and 5th-grade students. Forty-two junior and high school FFA members created, planned and facilitated the hands-on activities for younger students. This innovative program had an emphasis on plant and animal sciences and through feedback from participants, natural resources and horticulture were topics added for next year.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

These activities promote the well being and self-esteem of students, either mentally or physically.

Smoke Free Week

In conjunction with the junior high FFA, this chapter sponsored a successful Smoke Free Week at the middle school. Students prepared posters and announcements to promote the cause and handed out information on the perils of tobacco usage.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

EquiFriends

With a goal of promoting the well being and self-esteem of students both mentally and physically, this chapter had twenty members trained in therapeutic horseback riding. Members gained self-confidence by helping patients who benefited from both the relationships and therapeutic effects of riding. The company, EquiFriends, gained valuable volunteers for their program.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Tobacco Control

To educate citizens of their community about the dangers of smokeless tobacco, members created and manned a display at the fair. Adults and youth visited and watched an emotional video about the tragedies that can result from chewing tobacco.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

CPR Class

FFA alumni members offered a free class in CPR for all interested FFA members.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois



To heighten awareness of common farm-related hazards and get members involved in the education process, this chapter hosted a peer training program on health and safety issues. Together with their local hospital, the county farm bureau, county extension service and the American Red Cross, they waged a campaign that made a difference in their community. Eighty-six percent of members attended sessions on farm safety. Only one farm injury was reported during the summer months as compared to 3.8 in the years past.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

This well-planned activity taught students the importance of not drinking and driving. In an assembly that included presentations from a police officer and the head trauma nurse at the local hospital, students learned the consequences of driving drunk. One hundred percent of the students attending wore fatal vision glasses that simulated a .10% level of intoxication. Information cards were distributed to help students remember key points from the assembly.

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

Cooperation, enthusiasm, and good sportsmanship were stressed at this enthusiastic activity. Any FFA member could participate, regardless of ability, but everyone involved had to sell fruit and attend five FFA meetings. Meeting participation increased up to 25% and members and the community enjoyed a healthy exercise that brought spirit to the chapter.

Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

A series of committees was created to research and plan physical activities to keep members healthy and fit throughout the year. Members participated in everything from a relay race, to school sports, to a field day for grades K-6. The enthusiasm generated for healthy living was contagious and everyone joined in the fun.

Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon

The chapter sponsored a Bike and Walk-a-thon to raise money for Children's Hospital, the March of Dimes and St. Jude's Hospital. Members participated in walking and riding bikes and donated money for both events.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

Members of the FFA and 4-H competed in athletic events at the Richland county fair. This was a chance to get physically fit and learn teamwork and cooperation while working together with members of the community.

Olney FFA Chapter, Illinois

These activities promote student involvement and growth through agriculture-related experience and/or entrepreneurship.

Promoting Proficiency

To increase the number of American and State Degree applicants and the quality and quantity of proficiency applications, this chapter waged a full-fledged promotional campaign. They also improved facilities at the school so more students could take advantage of short-term animal projects. The results speak for themselves with a 27% increase in the number of proficiency applications, 64% of which placed in the top three at state competition.
Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

SAE Efficiency

This chapter noticed that many members had excellent SAE programs but were not taking time to complete the application process and/or promote their programs. A committee was created to focus on increasing the number of SAE applications and heightening exposure. Comprised of 15 members, the committee planned an application training session. Sessions included training on animal welfare, computerized record keeping, the Internet and state degree requirements. This activity promoted student involvement and decision-making skills and resulted in increased participation in the application process.
Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

Tasty F.R.E.E. Sensations

From the company's opening in November 1999 until its closing in April 2000, net profits totaled \$2,000. Students learned to manage and balance financial records, formulate ingredients for their original pizza recipe and work cooperatively to accomplish their goals. FFA members learned how to run an independent and successful company.
Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Hands-On Experience

FFA members enjoyed an educational experience when they spent a day on a fruit and vegetable farm. This alternative agricultural experience included working and learning about fruit and vegetable production.
Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

To encourage members to excel and to recognize their achievements, this chapter provided 12 awards for a variety of accomplishments. The chapter also awarded 68 degrees and 24 SAE proficiency awards. They provided plaques, gifts and financial awards to recognize members for their accomplishments.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

This year, the chapter loaned \$3,200 to five FFA members for their SAE projects. The members purchased breeding beef. Now they have a new career. Knowledge and lessons learned provide real world experience for members.

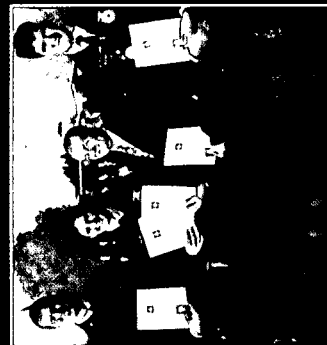
Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

Members here take their career preparation seriously and carefully develop their SAE program within their agricultural classes. They keep financial records of their business interests and record the number of hours they have worked along with the type of work and pay in their record books. Members are encouraged to participate in FFA and non-FFA activities; and they add these to their résumé.

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana



SCIENCES



Brown vs. Board of Education

This chapter was the youngest and largest group to participate in a series of panel discussions created to celebrate the anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. This case laid the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. Through this experience, members learned that maintaining principles of stamina in the face of adversity can change history. Fifty members participated in this unique, one-time event. Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

International Exchange

After a German exchange student visited their chapter, members' interest in the culture grew. Ten members traveled to Germany to experience the culture firsthand and share a bit about our own. Communication continues today via fax, phone and e-mail. Another trip is planned for German students to visit as the connection continues. Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

These activities
develop a positive attitude
to lifelong learning experiences.



Life's Foundation

A committee was created to recognize "Students of the Month" and "Most Improved Member." A variety of activities are available to meet students' interests and give them the chance to learn more about each other and become accepting of all people. Norco FFA Chapter, California

Character Building

Members participated in local and state skills contests to develop their knowledge of careers and enhance their management and decision-making skills. The FFA paid the entry fee at six invitational contests to give members a chance to practice their skills. The chapter had six teams in the top twenty at the state skills contest. East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

More Scholarship Ideas

Middle School

Recruiting and involving middle school students in the FFA chapter served everyone well. Focusing on middle school students before they get to high school produces eager and active FFA members who are better leaders for their school and community.

Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

The chapter learned of a need for improved communication with regard to available scholarship opportunities. The scholarship committee created a kiosk in the school lobby for enhancing communications. One hundred percent of college bound seniors have completed four or more scholarship applications. Students and parents now know that FFA is the way to increase scholarship awards.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

This chapter encouraged members to take an active role in activities and academics. Eleven members were involved in the National Honor Society and four were recognized with top awards at the FFA banquet. Members tutored other members to share their knowledge. One hundred percent of the chapter members completed the FFA point system record sheet to be considered for awards.

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana



Student's Skills

With a goal of getting every member involved in one of the career development events, students provided the event dates in advance to the school and their members. They also ensured that members had the materials they needed to practice for their events. The chapter succeeded in having 16 members honored for placing 1st and 2nd at the section and district level and had all team members pictured in the paper after the event.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Board of Trade

The chapter's overall goal was to provide marketing and computer skills through a progressive learning experience. With the use of the Internet, business leaders demonstrated this to 100% of the members. Students charted their commodities daily, kept track of their profits and losses and took an in-depth test on commodity marketing. Teams placed first, third and sixth in the state.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Booting Up for the New Millenium

A survey of students indicated a need for more career-related field trips and a chance to meet professionals. Students took action to make this happen and went on 12 field trips, met with 17 different speakers who shared their career insights and held a "contest night" where members shared their CDE experiences with interested students. As a result, fifty percent of members competed in 17 CDE areas at the chapter level.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

California Here We Come

Ten FFA members traveled to experience another FFA chapter and the surrounding environment of the San Francisco Bay area. Members learned of innovative ideas and techniques for career development events, toured a dairy, and visited Cal Poly SLO University in addition to experiencing a bit of the northern California culture. Plans are underway for a future exchange.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

Youth Entrepreneur Conference

This educational experience exposed members to careers available in their field of interest and gave them the opportunity to learn about the qualities needed to succeed as entrepreneurs. Participants received awards of commendation for their business plans and ideas and several received an honorable mention in the business competition.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

More Agricultural Career Skills Ideas

These activities
develop agricultural occupation and
career skills through a
progressive learning environment.

Agricultural Career Day

With the goal of increasing the number of graduates entering agricultural careers and the number of students entering college or technical schools, this chapter set out to have twenty representatives attend their career day. In excess of their goal, 22 businesses, colleges and technical schools attended this year. The number of schools attending increased by 5% and the number of students increased by 7%.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Nine FFA members were selected by three community judges to participate in this competition. Individuals competed against 80 students from 14 different chapters who received gold or silver awards. Projects ranged from floral business ownership to work experience in a tack/saddle business.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

Career Awareness

Through visiting speakers, hands-on work experience and other career exposure activities, this chapter earned positive results for their agricultural career awareness program. Seventy-five students attended a local industry tour that included stops at a dairy farm, retail nursery and collegiate horticulture department. Twelve members were employees for a day through a job-shadowing program and 70 members traveled to local campuses for additional career information.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

County & State Agriculture Skills Contest

Meeting their goal of 50% participation, this chapter had FFA members participate in their state skills contests. Two of the eight teams at the state level received a "gold" rating and three received a "silver" rating. Many students learned skills worth applying to their SAE.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

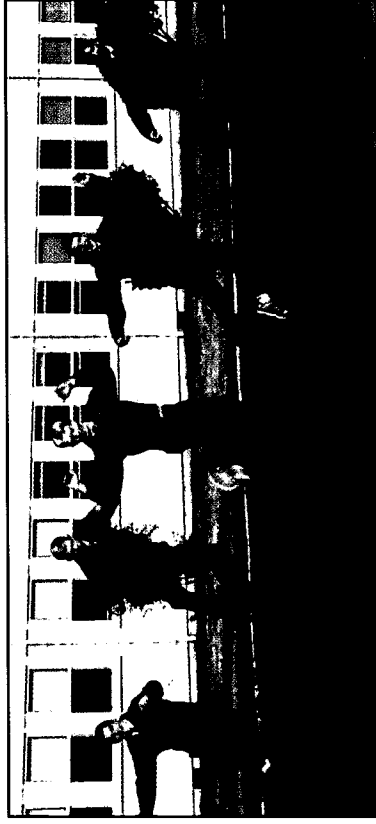
The Winner for Year 2000 is Perrydale FFA Chapter, Amity, OR

"Everyone in our school gets involved,
including the elementary students."

Krista McDowell,

2000-2001

Perrydale FFA Vice President



Chapter Development Quality Standards

Chapter recruitment activities increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

Financial activities encourage thrift and good financial management among members through earnings, saving and investments.

Public relations activities promote a positive image and inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.

Leadership activities develop teamwork and cooperative skills among chapter officers, committees and members.

Support group activities develop and maintain positive relations among the FFA, parents, community leaders and industry.

Chapter Development Division Award Winner

Clearly the secret to success for FFA advisor, Kirk Hutchinson is student involvement. Nicknamed Hutch, he said, "FFA has something to offer every student. When I came to Perrydale seventeen years ago, my advisory committee and I agreed that the best education available for students is one designed to involve all students and focused on everyone's wants."

When it comes to developing a Program of Activities, FFA members at Perrydale High are adept at combining the best of tradition with brand new ideas to create a broad spectrum of successful activities. Students here know that it takes everyone's involvement to make an activity work and possess plenty of enthusiasm and energy. For them, it's as easy as saying, "Pass the Pig!"



One of the chapter's innovative fundraising and public relations began when another chapter invited them to join in their activity. Known as Pass the Pig, here small groups of FFA members each take a pig to businesses downtown in Portland and request donations. It's a great chance for members to meet and greet businesspersons and promote FFA while raising money for chapter activities.

Chapter President Kinton Hutchinson said, "we combine many traditional activities including ag olympics and corn feed with suggestions for new activities from students. When someone has an idea, we ask if they are interested in working on it. They usually say yes." Another key to this chapter's success is immediate analysis of activities. For each activity, students write suggestions for the future and include what went well as well as what aspects could be improved.

The corn feed, an ongoing activity for seventeen years now, far surpassed the chapter's expectations. The FFA chapter along with dozens of other students not enrolled in agricultural education impressed everyone by serving the community of over 650 a delicious dinner with unlimited corn on the cob. Students coordinate the entire event and learn valuable organization and leadership skills. The money raised was used to pay dues for all chapter members. The event promoted their school and chapter through local newspaper coverage.

The goal of the Ag Olympics activity was to promote the FFA chapter in a positive, innovative way to students, chapter members, parents, community and the media. The key to success was involvement of the student body and chapter. An all-school meeting was called to discuss the event and chapter members were encouraged to bring friends who were not in the FFA.

Over 300 people attended this bonanza of athletic activity. An impressive 75% of the student body helped to organize or participated themselves. Three local newspaper reporters covered the event with articles and double-page color features.

These activities increase agricultural education enrollment and/or FFA membership and encourage greater participation.

FFA "Rush" Week

A variety of FFA activities were used to appeal to a diverse group of young students with the intention of recruiting them into the FFA. As a result, the chapter became the largest FFA "family" in the state of Iowa. Members prepared a recruitment brochure and video, visited 100% of the school's 8th-grade classrooms and sent three mailings to 100% of 8th-grade parents, among other activities in their very successful effort.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

Recruitment and Retention and Recreation (R, R &R)

With a projected loss of 45 members for the new year (due to a change in the school system), this chapter set a goal of recruiting 100 new members. The R, R & R committee in charge suggested that food and recreation be added to their chapter meetings. Activities included pumpkin decorating and FFA pictorial plus lots of pizza and subs. They exceeded their goal of recruiting 100 new members and attribute their success to the R, R & R committee's work.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Recruitment

In hopes of recruiting high school students into FFA and providing junior high students with basic knowledge of FFA, the chapter officers made a comprehensive recruitment plan. They held seven meetings and had state and chapter officers speak at each one. Forty-eight junior high school students joined FFA and were active in parliamentary procedure, career development events and much more.

Clinton Central FFA, Indiana

Recruiting the Future

This chapter seizes every opportunity to reach out to new members. Each week, two FFA officers make announcements at each of fifteen agriculture classes; and they also conduct a fun, educational activity at every chapter meeting. Members visit 8th-graders during their lunches to share information about the program. A point award system is used to track participation and shows that 83% of members have participated in one or more of these activities.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

More Chapter Recruitment Ideas

Involve High Schoolers

The chapter involves junior high students in FFA activities and in the annual banquet. FFA officers provide an 8th-grade orientation program and hand out brochures to all those interested in joining. By continued involvement of the youngest members, the chapter keeps grooming leaders and future members for its vitality.

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana

Involve Seniors

With 100% participation totaling 453 students in grades 7-12, the chapter members conducted 14 agriculturally related activities based on leadership and cooperative learning. FFA seniors spoke to the entire student about why they were glad they joined FFA. Membership increased 16% this year.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Involve Parents

The chapter's goal here was to provide eighth graders with knowledge about FFA and agricultural education and for both FFA members and junior high guests to have fun. A scavenger hunt with prizes and an FFA meeting were conducted. Information packets about FFA were given to the 8th-graders to take home so they could share the many rewards of the program with their parents.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio



More Financial Ideas

CashCrop@yelmnet.org

Students worked in horticulture and netted a profit of over \$10,000. They grew and sold plants and flowers focusing on various holidays throughout the year. They developed a unique partnership with the Nisqually Tribe, who purchased both a maintenance contract for their plant care and baskets from the chapter.

Yelm FFA, Washington

The First Straw

Members worked together to finish baling the field of straw, gaining valuable teamwork experience. The money the students raised was used to help them attend conferences, camps, convention and college.

Olin FFA Chapter, Illinois



These activities encourage thrift and good financial management among members through earnings, savings and investments.

Green Trees and Cheese

This chapter involved all members in producing, marketing and selling products ranging from Cabot cheese to Christmas trees. They raised a record amount of money totaling \$24,741. Students enhanced their skills in public speaking, money management and cooperation.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Benefit Barbecue

The committee created a chart of items for which members were responsible and then broke into sub committees to organize all aspects of the barbecue. They contacted radio stations for promotion of the event, a refrigeration truck company for donation, the ice warehouse and the chicken and soda companies. The chapter netted \$2,611 in profit, not including a donation of \$2,000 from a local business. Their reputation of past successes in this event lead others in the community to get involved and lend support.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

A Penny Saved

More than half of the chapter members and their parents attended this investment and savings workshop. Local professionals in business and financial management conducted seminars on money management techniques and good financial planning. Many FFA members applying for their chapter and state degrees found the information useful in recording their own financial records. Young entrepreneurs learned how to revamp their budget needs and set goals for their businesses.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Bull-A Rama

The alumni chapter worked closely with the FFA and the fair board to prepare for this event. Local businesses buy advertising sponsorships to help pay for the stock contractor expenses. They raised nearly \$4,000 this year. Alumni donated \$3,000 to the chapter from their earnings.

Park FFA Chapter, Montana

Agriculture Ambassadors

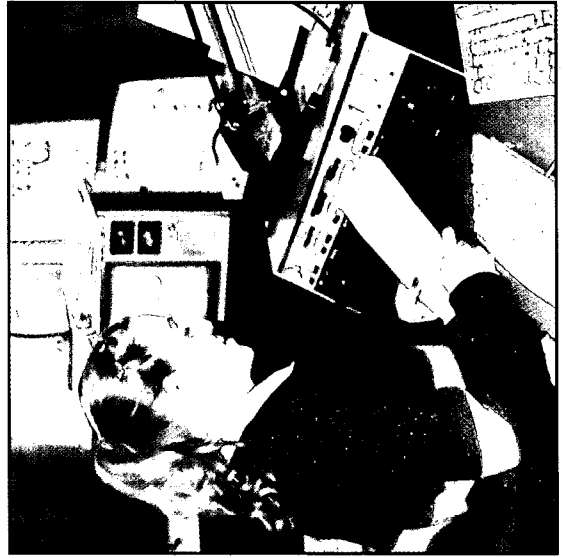
In order to make everyone aware of the FFA and agricultural education, the FFA officer team involved 21 members in their agriculture ambassador program. The ambassadors designed displays on agriculture for the school lobby, sent a letter to incoming freshman, gave presentations to the seventh grade and passed out information packets about FFA.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

On the Radio

To improve community awareness of the FFA chapter, their activities and happenings in the agriculture community, this chapter committed to bi-weekly radio addresses for the year. Members secured advertising dollars from local businesses to sponsor the program. Fifty FFA members participated, refining their communication skills and sharing information on their SAE. The chapter found this community link to significantly strengthen support for their chapter from the community.

Park FFA, Montana



Celebrate FFA Week

This chapter launched an intense campaign to promote FFA with both internal and external audiences during FFA week. Promotions include repeat inserts in local paper, a feature article on the chapter president, a large exhibit at school and an FFA billboard. Their planning began prior to winter break and paid off with lots of great publicity.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Television Spot for Hair

This chapter decided that a great way to make money would be to cut their advisor's hair for donations. With the help of a local television crew, they planned an early morning spot that included members participating in a variety of diverse activities including the cutting of their teacher's long locks.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois



More Public Relations Ideas

Mass Media Blitz

Keeping the community informed is important. Members use a variety of media to educate a broad and diverse audience including parents, students and people in the community. A homepage, weekly newspaper articles, a monthly newsletter and an FFA week media blitz that includes six radio interviews and their FFA week newspaper keep the community informed of chapter news.

Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Webpage

In an effort to promote the FFA throughout the community and keep members informed about FFA activities, this chapter created their own web page on the Highwired.Net. In just over one year, this site has had over 2,300 hits and approximately 33% of members check the site regularly for events.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

Special Promotion

In a special promotion of FFA week, chapter members raised the money to produce and print a separate section all about FFA in their local newspaper. Members sold advertisements to pay for the 33,000 copy distribution of the paper. They were also responsible for writing the articles and photo selection. Eighty-seven percent of members participated in this promotional effort for their chapter and everyone learned something.

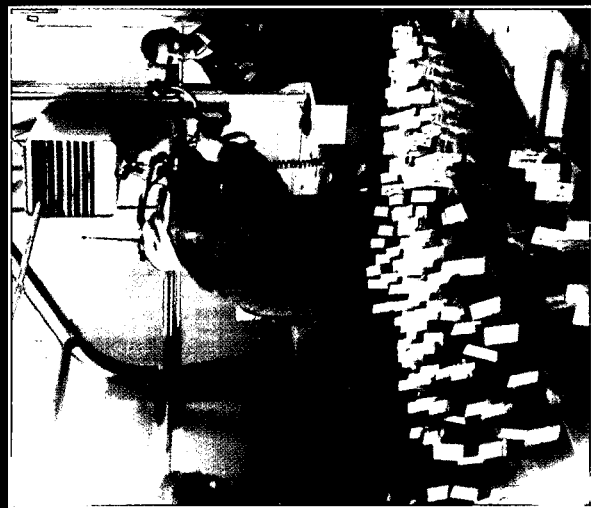
Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

Do You Know Us?

Members installed a marquee sign in front of their school to inform parents and the community about future activities. It is also used to congratulate FFA members on their successes and to promote the agriculture industry. Fourteen members assisted in the process by excavating the footing, pouring the concrete and completing the electrical installation.

Norco FFA Chapter, California

These activities promote a positive image and inform students, parents, school officials and the community about chapter and member accomplishments.



FFA Week

Chapter members recorded five different public service announcements at a local radio station. Over 50,000 individuals in six counties had the chance to learn more about FFA on the radio.

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana

State Fair Exhibit Landscaping

Members of this chapter contributed over 600 hours of their time landscaping and constructing flower boxes for the new state fair building and exhibit. They developed the landscape plans, assigned teams for each area and handled the design and planting.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

Chapter Public Relations

This chapter's public relations committee set out with a comprehensive plan to reach all audiences through a variety of media. Individuals were assigned their responsibilities ranging from producing local television programming to appearing on radio shows and the placement of newspaper inserts. They even had a schedule set for photographing and writing articles on chapter events. The key to their success was advanced planning.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

WWW.chapter.COM

COM stands for communication, organization and management. This chapter took their goal-setting and follow-up action seriously. They organized a summer retreat to set goals and a winter retreat to evaluate their progress. They planned a general chapter meeting and leadership committee meeting each month. Due to their organization and good management, they were able to address issues in a timely manner. Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

AG Day at the Mall

Sixteen FFA members were involved in the mall day event. Over twenty different agriculturally related organizations and businesses participated in this one-day event. Members had the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience while promoting agricultural literacy. Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Chapter Convention

With the focus of leadership development and preparation of the district contests, the chapter created convention for a day. State officers provide inspiring speeches at breakout sessions, members competed in their areas and received tips from the judges along with lunch and recreation at the end of the day. The chapter has experienced an 11% participation increase in contests. Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

More Leadership Ideas

Sister States

Members of the citizenship committee decided there was value in connecting with other countries. They then solicited volunteers. One hundred percent of members became involved with each of four classes adopting two countries. Students learned that they are more alike than different from their regional counterparts and gained a better understanding about world society and agriculture. Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

RHS Teamwork

By cooperating with other student organizations, this chapter promoted teamwork on many levels. Working together, they can accomplish more. FFA members receive points throughout the year for their involvement and are rewarded at the annual banquet. Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Chart the Challenge

The officer team's participation in the challenge course at the 4-H Memorial camp proved to be the greatest accomplishment of all the year's activities. The officer team learned to communicate, understand and cooperate with one another and solved some of their interpersonal challenges along the way. Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois



8th-Grade Leadership Camp

Chapter members presented a fun-filled camp complete with obstacle course, trust falls and water volleyball. A pizza dinner and an evening dance completed the camp as a means of recruiting 8th-graders into the FFA. Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Appreciation Days

To recognize and encourage continued support from their community, including teachers and administration, this chapter utilized National FFA Week to show their appreciation. Each day recognized a different group with surprises and activities geared to their interests. Teachers received appreciation letters from students with a total of 300 sent and members spent an afternoon cleaning a nearby highway to demonstrate their appreciation to the community. Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Annual FFA and Alumni Golf Tournament

Fifty businesses supported the golf outing and the event raised \$1,500 to support the chapter and FFA alumni activities. Chapter members remembered to write thank-you notes to each of the businesses and supporters involved in this successful event.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Perfect Stranger's Support

The Nebraska FFA Association chose this chapter to host their Department of Agriculture staff along with that of the USDA. They also toured the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey. Their members highlighted the community work their chapter has done there over the years. The event was highly publicized through the media and the publicity continued at the annual banquet. This event included all FFA supporters, parents, community leaders and 8th-grade students with their parents. It gave the chapter members a chance to show their appreciation for support throughout the year.

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Beauty in the Park

This town needed an area for the community to picnic, exercise, relax and enjoy nature. So, the FFA worked closely with the city council in transforming an old landfill area into a beautiful town park. The FFA community service committee secured a grant of \$2,000 that was used to build the landscape areas, flower beds, a shelter house, a paved walk path and natural resources area for birds. Members contacted local businesses for donations and built the picnic tables, bird houses, feeders and benches themselves.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

National FFA Week

Included in this chapter's FFA week activities was an opportunity to connect with the community, especially parents of FFA members. Events such as spirit day, parrot coffee, official dress and modern day tractorcade all served to maintain positive relations with the community, while heightening their awareness of FFA and agricultural education.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

Alumni Connection

To strengthen the relationship with their alumni, this chapter became more involved with collaborative activities. They sent a chapter newsletter to all alumni members and a representative to their monthly meetings. Together, they raised over \$30,000 and joined in numerous activities throughout the year.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Grist Mill Opens

As long-standing members of the Franklin Creek Preservation Area committee (19 years), this chapter was responsible for work on the 1,200-acre state park and for renovating the Grist Mill. The chapter was asked to begin the program with the Pledge of Allegiance and Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, praised chapter members for their hard work and leadership in this endeavor.

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois



The Winner for Year 2000 is Perrydale FFA Chapter, Amity, OR



Community Development Quality Standards

Economic activities improve the economic welfare of the community.

Environmental activities preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

Human resources activities improve the welfare and well-being of members and citizens of the community.

Citizenship activities promote and encourage member to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

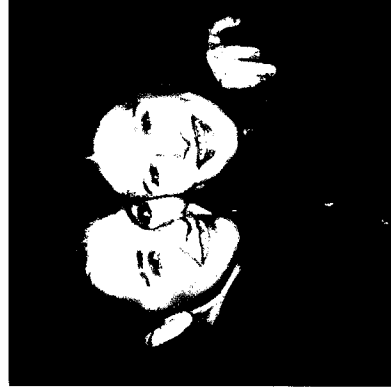
Agricultural awareness activities help the public become better informed about the food system and related agricultural issues.

"It's a wonderful feeling to
pull together as a community.
I hope they would do the same for us."

Tracy Neal, 2000-2001

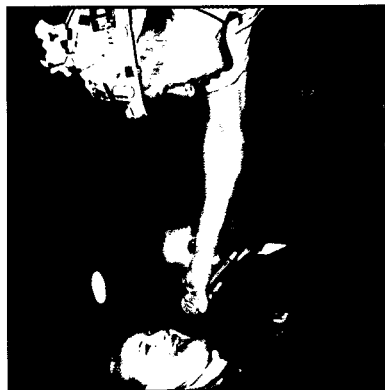
Perrydale FFA Chapter

Secretary

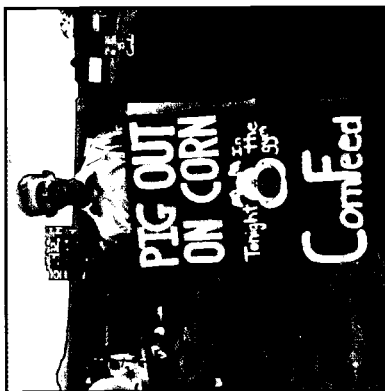


Community Development Division Award Winner

It all began when the mother of an FFA member came to Perrydale High and asked for help for the victims of the Oklahoma tornado. A gallant effort on the part of the FFA chapter and community resulted in a world of difference for five families who had lost everything. The Perrydale officer team and FFA advisor, Mr. Hutchinson, motivated others to get involved and used the media to assist them. They set up committees and solicited donations of food and goods that they stored in the shop until sorting occurred. Each of the five families received an array of supplies and an additional \$200 in cash. The transportation committee secured a trailer and truck to transport goods the 1,600 mile distance. The seven tons of food and \$4,000 in monetary donations Perrydale raised dramatically improved life for five families and helped everyone to learn that nothing feels quite as good as helping others in need.



In another community effort, FFA members worked with the entire high school to plan a successful holiday food and clothing drive. The effort was organized extremely well with students motivating other students and contacting local businesses for donations. Members contacted local radio, television and print media to assist in promoting this activity. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they met and exceeded their goals, gathering over 9,000 articles of clothing and four tons of nonperishable food. Students distributed the goods to local food banks and gave food to low-income community members. The spirit of giving put everyone in the right mood for the holidays.



All Night in Cardboard City

Forty members of this FFA chapter stayed all night in bitter cold weather to raise money for a local homeless shelter. Members raised more than \$21,000 in donations and learned through a humbling experience how great it feels to give back to one's community.

East Clinton FFA Chapter, Ohio

Toys Are Us

Members had fun raising over \$1,800 at their fifth annual toy show. Together with the Olney FFA Alumni, toy vendors and community members, the chapter worked hard to create a successful show. The entire community benefited from focusing on one common goal and FFA members had a chance to share news about their chapter.

Olney FFA Chapter, Illinois

Nick Piper Memorial Scholarship Fund

To commemorate a fellow FFA member, the chapter created a scholarship fund that would assist other students. They decided to raise and auction the pigs Nick Piper had owned before his death. Combined with additional donations, they raised over \$10,000 for student scholarships.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Pork Quality Assurance Program

Seventy-six FFA members were trained and certified through this effort. Training included medicating pigs, record-keeping methods and techniques as well as production of a safe, healthy pork product. The pigs were kept free of drugs, residues and disease. All members were tested on their knowledge and the lowest score received was 87%. Quality and health of animals improved significantly at the county fair.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

It Takes a Village

To improve the economic welfare of their community, 17 members spent 166 total hours building a home for a family in their town with Habitat for Humanity. They attended meetings, assisted in the organization of activities and served as liaisons for the chapter.

Yelm FFA Chapter, Washington

More Economics Ideas

Food from the Hood

This nationally recognized program, "Food from the Hood," gave forty greenhands the chance to participate in an amazing experience that included developing and marketing organic food products made from produce grown on their 39-acre land lab. The chapter's relationship with the community was strengthened from the economic contribution. Profits from sales went toward scholarships for students in urban areas who plan to pursue a career in agriculture. The chapter had a chance to promote urban gardening and agriculture to their community while gaining valuable business and leadership skills.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois

Fish Goals

The chapter developed and received two grants to promote an alternative agriculture product in the state of Montana. The grants were provided to utilize crop byproducts for the tilapia they produce.

Park FFA Chapter, Montana



More Environmental Ideas

Ornamental Pond

Upon completion of a unit on plant and animal physiology, the aquaculture, horticulture and drafting classes each wanted to apply their knowledge to a hands-on project at the school. Utilizing this blended instruction, they decided to build an ornamental pond. Students broke into teams to brainstorm the design, access materials needs and investigate sites. Students enhanced their own community and even had requests for the creation of additional ponds from members of the administration.

Easton FFA Chapter, Maryland

Street Signs

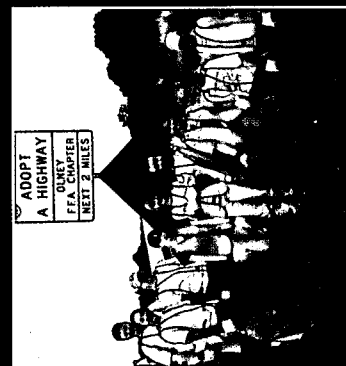
Members worked hard to beautify the two-mile stretch of highway in this community. The community's appearance improved and members learned the value of getting involved and taking responsibility for their neighborhood.

Oliney FFA Chapter, Illinois

Renew and Reuse

All in-school FFA members were involved in a cooperative program that recycled over 30 tons of materials, with 25% of the community utilizing the facility. Changes this year included 80 recycling tubs placed in the elementary and high school classrooms and the addition of a recycling barn. The FFA chapter received a \$2,000 grant from the Waste Management firm to perform this service.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana



These activities preserve natural resources and develop more environmentally responsible individuals.

Wetland Reclamation

With the mission of redeveloping the arable land, reclaiming a wetland and developing a nature trail, this chapter achieved 100% participation from their members. Currently in phase II of VI, the chapter has handled tillage and has completed plot monitoring of eight seed varieties with a 4% increase in yield. They continue to work on the drainage system and soil tilth.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Salmon R Us

Members gained hands-on experience in aquaculture by managing 500 Coho salmon eggs. They created a program that educated over 600 elementary students on egg harvest, hatchery management, harvest techniques and salmon anatomy and provided basic environmental education to 75 children. Members gained increased awareness of environmental concerns of the salmon as an endangered species.

Monroe FFA Chapter, Washington

Project Halsey

This three-day activity gives students a chance to volunteer their time on federal forest lands. Projects included construction of 10 artificial fish habitat units created to give fish a refuge where they can grow bigger and construction of three benches for use around the campfire tower. After their labor was complete, students had the chance to swim, fish, canoe, tube and just enjoy the natural habitat.

Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Project Environmentalism

The goal of this activity was to develop more environmentally responsible individuals through the use of conservation and environmental activities. In cooperation with several other entities, the chapter presented a conservation day including 10 different topics to 262 middle school students. Print and electronic media were used to promote the event. A dozen members made over 80 presentations to local clubs. Junior high students built more than 80 birdhouses and donated them to elementary students.

Harlan FFA Chapter, Iowa

These activities improve the welfare and well being of members and citizens of the community.

Rabies Clinic

Through this chapter's work in promoting vaccinations to prevent the spread of rabies, they witnessed twice the amount of animals vaccinated. Students gained valuable experience in veterinary science and helped keep their community members safe.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Andy the Talking Ambulance

During fire safety week, members involved grade school students in a personal safety event. Members had Andy, the talking remote control ambulance, grab the attention of young students while he delivered a great message of safety for the entire community.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Giving Something Back

With a goal of providing over 500 hours of service to the community and involving all FFA members, this chapter brainstormed a method that would work well for everyone. Members could earn points for FFA trips if they were to give five hours of their time to a community project. They could choose their project and the flexibility enabled 98% of the chapter to get involved, with over 575 hours of community service performed.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas



More Human Resources Ideas

Clean-Up Day

In an effort to assist the elderly of the community with removal of their unwanted items, twenty-five members drove pick up trucks throughout town and brought 40 plus appliances to the scrap-metal yard. They also planted twenty-five trees, one for each member, throughout the community. In one day, their efforts served to noticeably enhance their community.

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

911 Safety

This chapter worked with the fire protection board of trustees and installed nearly 200 of the 911 emergency address signs throughout the community. The chapter saw a need in their community and filled it.

Cissna Park FFA Chapter, Illinois

Blood Drive

Over a one-year period, this chapter held three successful blood drives to aid the community in general and on one occasion they also honored a student who had passed away. With significant promotion and advertising, the chapter collected 127 pints of blood.

Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Farmville

The chapter worked with local community members and Farmedic to heighten awareness of farm injuries. Thirty EMS personnel from eight different squads attended a program on farm safety.

Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter, Connecticut

Christmas Assistance

This program in its 22nd year, provides a Christmas celebration for those living in mental health facilities. The event, complete with great food and gifts from Santa brought the community and FFA members together in a festive celebration.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

After Hurricane Andrew

After learning that their principal's wife had gone to Honduras to help her family in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane, the chapter members offered to travel there and assist. Six chapter members served as tutors to Honduran students. All of the members worked to provide the Honduran students with backpacks, notebooks and school supplies. Together with the FFA members, they planted over 3,000 trees. FFA members spent most of their time assisting in rebuilding the town and the lives of the Honduran people.

Heritage FFA Chapter, Indiana

Flowers Everywhere

Students worked together with local businesses, placing planters of flowers throughout the historic district of downtown. Students were in charge of transplanting and caring for the plants, along with construction of the planters.

Park FFA Chapter, Montana

Community Bowling

With a strong desire to give back to their community, this chapter increased the members' awareness by donating their time to the city. Members became actively involved in a variety of projects ranging from construction of safety zones around a playground to helping with a Special Olympics bowling tournament.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

A Little Paint

As a means of repaying the American Legion for all of their support throughout the year, members offered to do the dirty work. They scraped the old paint off the Craig Reed Post and added a beautiful new coat. Members made some good friends in this activity and helped the City of Cisco to shine.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois

Improve the School

This chapter chose their school as the location for an activity of citizenship. Members improved the grounds and athletic facilities by repairing and painting benches, cleaning flower beds, planting flowers and constructing an aluminum batting practice system. They involved 40% of the members and increased public awareness about their chapter through this activity.

South Adams FFA Chapter, Indiana



These activities promote and encourage members to become active, involved citizens of their school, community and country.

Race to End Hunger

Together with the middle and grade schools, FFA members set out to gather needed supplies for a local food pantry. Together with teachers, they collected over 3,142 units of food and far surpassed their expectations. Cooperating with the junior high FFA members, this chapter held a dance where the price of admission was two cans of food.

Shenandoah FFA Chapter, Indiana

Legacy of Learning

As a means of enhancing members' computer skills and helping citizens of the community, members tutored seniors in computer technology. Lesson plans were developed for consistency. Local foundations contributed \$16,000 to the project and end-less friendships were begun. Seniors learned to send e-mail to family far away.

Marshall FFA Chapter, Michigan

Lincoln Building

In an effort to restore the historical Lincoln building, FFA members worked well over 1,000 hours cleaning and refurbishing. They removed over eight dump trucks worth of material from the structure to clear the way for the rebuilding to begin. This was the first stone block building in town and is to be the headquarters of a local association when completed.

Franklin Center FFA Chapter, Illinois

Citizenship Journey

Legislative leaders taught students about the process required for a bill to become a law. Students witnessed the workings of the three branches of government during a visit with the governor. They even had the chance to hold \$250,000 in state money for a photograph.

Melbourne FFA Chapter, Arkansas

Elementary Education

Seventy-two FFA members (84%) developed their leadership skills and served as positive role models for 253 elementary students by presenting a variety of stations of animals. Members taught the younger students about where food originates and caring for animals. Ten FFA members demonstrated the cutting of a hog carcass to elementary students in the agriculture shop. FFA members also participated in Healthy Kids Day where they provided an educational animal display for special needs students and helped to grill and serve food.

New Bremen FFA Chapter, Ohio

Get to Know the FFA

When members set their mind to educating their community about agricultural issues, they did not leave anything out. They created a booth for the state fair, exhibits for the fall events and a float entitled "an FFA Noel." They even adopted 11 kindergarten classes to share with them the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

Aurora FFA Chapter, Missouri

Establishing a State Soil

Together with Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Monticello FFA worked to establish Drummer Silty Clay Loam as the state soil for Illinois. Members were active in every aspect of their goal. Although they have not yet succeeded, they will continue the pursuit until the state soil is designated.

Monticello FFA Chapter, Illinois



These activities help the public become better informed about the food system and related agricultural issues.

To create an better understanding in the minds of 1st-graders as to where, why and how food is produced, this chapter planned a week of Food For America activities including one that followed the production and processing of food from farmer to the consumer. Eighty-seven 1st-graders and 23 FFA members were involved in the planning and conducting of the daily one hour programs. Members extended 230 planning and presentation hours and met all of their chapter's goals for the project.

Clinton Central FFA Chapter, Indiana

With 100% participation in National Farm Safety Week and/or National Fire Safety Week, members were active in a variety of worthwhile activities. Students educated themselves and then farmers about pesticide safety by personally delivering 60 safety kits to local farms. Chapter members also assisted local emergency management personnel in bicycle safety presentations.

Carroll FFA Chapter, Indiana

Agriculture Today

The chapter used the fair as an opportunity to educate young and old on today's agriculture and the FFA. With an aquaculture and petting chick display, members helped small children experience today's agriculture. They even demonstrated how to make plastic from corn.

Olney FFA Chapter, Illinois

Extravaganza Bonanza

Together with four other chapters, members organized an extravaganza to be remembered including a tractor pull, pie-eating contests and educational activities. Members had a chance to share information about FFA and agriculture.

Tri-County FFA Chapter, Indiana

Jeff Davis Middle School Activities

FFA advisor Nita McCloud found FFA members in her chapter eager to participate and enthused with great ideas. Members knew they had to work as a team and plan a Program of Activities that worked for the entire chapter comprised of 180 members. Ms. McCloud said, "you can plan a great POA but to be successful everyone must follow-through." This chapter has great support from both the administration and fellow teachers as well.



All members have the opportunity to participate in career development events. This year, there were sixteen events promoting career skills. Members competed in all areas and five members placed in the top ten in showmanship at the state livestock show.

With a strong focus on careers, this chapter had twenty-two different businesses participate in career day. Five of those businesses were in the area of agriculture.

This chapter provided a variety of recreational activities to appeal to everyone. At the FFA summer camp, teamwork was key and the girl's team won runner-up team of the week.

Their alumni connection is very important to this chapter. They cosponsored a chickenque where they sold over 1,400 plates. They also helped the alumni work the concession wagon at the fall festival with proceeds donated to the Children's Miracle Network.

The chapter had numerous activities to keep them "in the black" throughout the year. Citrus fruit sales, a talent show and more enabled them to participate in all activities.

The chapter held an annual parents and member awards banquet to recognize individual members and the chapter's accomplishments. Parents, administrators and supporters of the chapter were also recognized.

To improve the welfare and to enhance citizenship qualities in members, this chapter forged a relationship with the Navajo nation tribe in New Mexico. Members sponsored a youth camp for the Navajo children and along with a local church, sent Christmas gifts for them.



Program of Activities

A accomplished FFA chapters understand that success is the result of planning and then implementing their plans. They develop a written Program of Activities (POA) to establish and work toward their goals for the year. A well-planned and well-executed POA helps students develop the skills they need for career and personal success.

A well-planned POA will:

- ★ ensure chapter activities meet members' needs;
- ★ lead to a workable budget;
- ★ provide students with experience in planning;
- ★ serve as a reference point throughout the year;
- ★ provide direction from year to year.

POA Development Steps

The strongest POAs emerge from a committee structure and process that involves every member in setting chapter goals, then planning and carrying out activities. Many chapters use the following steps. Start by using the National Chapter Award video to introduce members to the process. For more details and helpful forms, refer to *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. Both items are available from the National FFA Organization. Call 1-888-332-2668 and request item #PCHP or item # NCAH, respectively.



1. The chapter organizes standing, executive and special committees to address the areas of student, chapter and community development. Each member serves on at least one committee.
2. Each committee identifies goals and activities related to its purpose/area.
3. Committees present their selected activities, including estimated income and costs to the entire chapter for approval.
4. Approved activities and a combined chapter calendar of events are published in the written POA. It is distributed to all members.
5. Committees and subcommittees develop detailed plans for each activity.
6. Members carry-out the plans.
7. Committees report results and evaluate the activities. They prepare written final reports for each activity, noting costs, income, accomplishments and recommendations.
8. Chapter leaders refer to the POA and its results to prepare an application of the National Chapter Award program.

Applying for the National Chapter Award program is an opportunity to be recognized for all the hard work and accomplishments of the chapters. Recognition from both the state and national organizations rewards students for their diligence and brings prestige to their chapter.





The National FFA Organization encourages chapter activities that provide:

- ★ A balance of experiences inside and outside the classroom, with sensitivity for students who have part-time jobs or work after school;
- ★ Opportunities for developing self-confidence, responsibility, citizenship, cooperation and feelings of winning and self-esteem;
- ★ Hands-on activities;
- ★ General leadership skills;
- ★ Accessibility for all student populations;
- ★ Flexibility that will allow students of all abilities to achieve;
- ★ Flexibility that will allow chapters from various environments and with various levels of resources to achieve;
- ★ Multiple levels of participation and experiences;
- ★ Appropriate recognition for all participants;

Relevant educational experiences which expose students to opportunities in food, agriculture and natural resources.



Membership Recruitment Tips

Membership is vital to every FFA chapter and agricultural education program. Potential members will be attracted to an active chapter comprised of satisfied students. This, in turn, enables everyone to get involved in a diversified and innovative Program of Activities.

- ★ Ensure the FFA chapter "belongs" to students. They are the ones who plan and conduct the activities and should receive the recognition that accompanies their success.
- ★ Connect with your community through activities and public relations. Utilize the media, Internet and special events to keep the news about FFA on the minds of your citizens.
- ★ Reach out to all audiences with a positive message about FFA and agricultural education.
- ★ Provide agricultural safety tips and Food for America lessons to elementary school students. Remember to include administration, school counselors and other teachers so they can see firsthand how all students learn from the FFA and agricultural education.



- ★ Intensely target the 7th and 8th-grade students with FFA information and activities. Hold a lock-in where your chapter officers present leadership workshops for their benefit. Create an agricultural career day where they can learn about the more than 300 careers.
- ★ Bring a diverse group of FFA members to activities when recruiting new members. Include freshman and sophomores (for age connection to middle grades) and include athletes, outstanding students and student council members. Not everyone need wear official dress. These steps will help younger students to relate to the FFA members.
- ★ Reach out to shy and "nontraditional" students in your chapter who could benefit significantly from FFA if they only had the chance to learn what it is all about.
- ★ Add fun and food to your activities whenever possible. Pizza and subs are a hit!
- ★ Plan an event: picnic, camping trip or barbeque just prior to the start of school and connect young recruits with existing members so they can share information about FFA.



TipsForSuccess

The tips on the following pages may be helpful to you when preparing your National Chapter Award application. They originated with those involved in the process including judges, advisors, members and national FFA staff.

Follow the developmental process outlined in *Chapter Planning and Recognition: A Student Handbook*. Identify specific goals that are measurable and realistic; develop a plan that is educational and meets the goals you have set; and evaluate the results you have achieved and the benefits members have gained. Be sure to include information on how the activity impacted members, the chapter, school and community.

- ★ In the application, every activity should have measurable objectives and the plan of action should be detailed and reference each objective.
- ★ Include specific facts about percentages of membership involved and accomplishments.
- ★ Keep a file of activities and notes on areas for improvement within each activity. Students can use this information when they begin the year's Program of Activities planning.



- ★ Use each activity once on Form I. If used more than once, your chapter will not qualify for National Gold recognition.
- ★ Invite your English teacher to edit and proofread your application. They will learn more about the FFA and you are bound to submit a better application. Always use spellcheck on your computer and grammarcheck if you have it.
- ★ Points may be deducted or an application may be disqualified for including supplementary materials not specifically requested on the application.
- ★ Review the application checklist before submitting your application. Follow instructions carefully. Please use the FFA award application folder as pages may be lost if not secured.
- ★ Photos tell your story and good photography is important. Plan ahead and have all events photographed well. Getting good photos means shooting ample film. Your photographer should have some experience in centering the people/objects in the photo and considering the necessary lighting to enhance the picture. The national FFA uses the winning photos in printed materials and cannot utilize scanned or digital images.

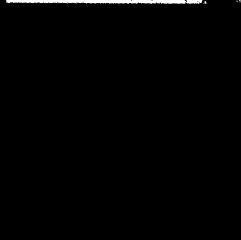
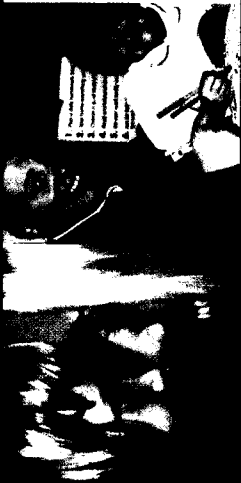


The National FFA Chapter Award program guides students to achieve the Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) foundation skills and competencies by:

- ★ Practicing student leadership and citizenship to solve community-based problems;
- ★ Demonstrating the leadership and human relation skills necessary to become productive members of society;
- ★ Developing interpersonal skills by valuing diversity, practicing tolerance and acceptance of others and working cooperatively toward common goals;
- ★ Using information-based technologies to complete prescribed forms and documents.



Photography for Ravenna FFA Chapter, Nebraska, Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, Illinois and Perrydale FFA Chapter, Oregon is provided by Jim D'Angelo. The remaining photography is provided by chapters.





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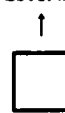


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